

Message Text

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SUBJ: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS PROGRAM -- TRANSRED

SPIN-OFFS

1. DURING RECENT MEETING BETWEEN EXIM DIRECTOR KODELINSKI AND MINFIN MOUKAMBI, MOUKAMBI DISCUSSED TWO PROJECTS RELATED TO TRANSRED RAILROAD IN WHICH HE HOPED AMERICAN COMPANIES WOULD TAKE PART AND FOR WHICH GOG WOULD BE ABLE USE EXIM FINANCING.

2. FIRST PROJECT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTING MEANS OF TRANSPORT FOR MANGANESE ORE FROM COMILOG MINE TO MOANDA STATION OF TRANSGABON RAILROAD. RTG ENVISAGES EITHER CABLE CARS OR CONVEYOR BELT THAT WOULD TAKE ORE FROM MINE DOWNHILL TO STATION SEVERAL KILOMETERS AWAY. WILL NEED TO BE FINISHED WHEN TRANSGABON READY TO TRANSPORT MANGANESE, PROBABLY ABOUT 1980. SUGGEST ANY INTERESTED AMERICAN COMPANIES CONTACT U.S. STEEL (OWNER OF 44.10 PERCENT OF MANGANESE COMPANY COMILOG) FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND IN ORDER TO DEVELOP PROPOSAL THAT WILL MEET THEIR NEEDS EXACTLY.

3. SECOND PROJECT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTING A JETTY OR DOCK FOR LOADING IRON AND MANGANESE AT SANTA CLARA MINERAL PORT. SOMIFER (20 PERCENT OWNED BY BETHLEHEM STEEL) HAS AGREED TO CONSTRUCT THE ON-SHORE PORTIONS OF THIS PORT, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT GOG WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR JETTY EXTENDING OUT INTO

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WATER. PORT IS CURRENTLY PLANNED FOR COMPLETION AROUND 1982, WHEN EXPLOITATION OF IRON DEPOSITS AT BELINGA EXPECTED TO BEGIN. WOULD SUGGEST THAT INTERESTED AMERICAN COMPANIES CONTACT BETHLEHEM IN ORDER TO DEVELOP UNIFIED PROPOSAL FOR PORT CONSTRUCTION FOR PRESENTATION TO GOG.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THESE TWO PROJECTS AFFORD EXCELLENT CHANCE FOR U.S. COMPANIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED AT BEGINNING OF PROCESS BY VIRTUE OF INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. AND BETHLEHEM STEEL. THIS IS ADVANTAGE WE NORMALLY DO NOT HAVE IN GABON, WHERE FRENCH GENERALLY START FROM THIS ADVANCED POSITION. IT WOULD BE SHAME TO MISS OPPORTUNITY.

5. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
MCKESSON

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